1	THE HONORABLE RICHARD A. JONES		
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3			
4	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT		
5	WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE		
6	ABDIQAFAR WAGAFE, et al., on behalf	No. 2:17-cv-00094-RAJ	
7	of themselves and others similarly situated,	PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO COMPEL	
8	Plaintiffs,	STATISTICAL DATA UNDER FED R. CIV. P. 37(a)(3)	
9	V.	NOTE ON MOTION CALENDAR:	
10	DONALD TRUMP, President of the United States, et al.,	October 30, 2020	
11	Defendants.	Redacted Version	
12			
13	Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 37(a)(3), Plaintiffs respectfully request that		
14	the Court order Defendants to produce certain statistical data that they improperly have withheld		
15	from Plaintiffs. At the Rule 30(b)(6) deposition of Defendant USCIS on August 31, 2020,		
16	Plaintiffs learned for the first time that the sta	atistical data that Defendants intend to rely on in this	
17	case uses an overbroad and inaccurate definition of a "CARRP case"		
18	. USCIS	confirmed at the deposition that the definition of a	
19	"CARRP case" used in the data includes cases		
20			
21		. Although Defendants and their	
22	witnesses have represented that applicants in those categories should not be subjected to		
23	CARRP, Defendants have mislabeled them as "CARRP cases" in the data. And, even though		
24	applicants in those categories likely comprise of the "CARRP cases" in the data,		
25 26	USCIS intends to rely on this very inaccurate data—and has already relied on it—to argue both		

1 that the delays and denial rates of CARRP cases are not as significant when compared to non-2 CARRP cases. 3 At the recent deposition, USCIS also acknowledged that its Fraud Detection and National 4 Security Data System ("FDNS-DS") database contains certain 5 fields that would allow the Court and the parties to have a correct understanding of what cases 6 are in fact "CARRP cases" and the impact of CARRP on their adjudication. Those fields— 7 including would allow the 8 parties to remove applicants in these categories when calculating processing times and denial 9 rates for CARRP cases. This is critical, for example, because the 10 category of cases reflect cases no longer subject to CARRP. So, without an ability to 11 disaggregate these cases from the data, the data cannot accurately show how CARRP impacts 12 approval and denial rates at the point of adjudication. The requested fields, therefore, go to the 13 heart of Plaintiffs' case. Without this crucial information, Plaintiffs and the Court will not have 14 an accurate assessment of the extent of the significant harm caused by CARRP: USCIS's lengthy 15 delays in adjudicating naturalization and adjustment of status applications subjected to CARRP 16 and the higher rate of denials of those applications. 17 Pursuant to Rule 26(e), Defendants "must supplement or correct [their] disclosure or 18 [discovery] response" if "in some material respect the disclosure or response is incomplete or 19 incorrect" or "as ordered by the court." The Court should, therefore, order Defendants to produce 20 fields to Plaintiffs both as a supplement to their the requested 21 disclosures under Rule 26(a) and as responsive to Plaintiffs' many discovery requests seeking 22 CARRP-related statistical data.¹ 23 ¹ At the Rule 30(b)(6) deposition, USCIS also disclosed for the first time that Defendants unilaterally changed the 24 without informing Plaintiffs. Ahmed Decl. ¶ 5. USCIS admitted that it used a in the statistical data produced to 25 Plaintiffs in response to Interrogatory No. 3 in October 2018. Id. USCIS further admitted that Id. Plaintiffs requested that 26 Defendants produce an updated version of the Interrogatory No. 3 data, but Defendants refused. *Id.* Pursuant to Rule 26(e), Defendants are also required to "correct" and re-produce the Interrogatory No. 3 data. On October 9, 2020,

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Defendants produced the underlying dataset used to respond to Interrogatory No. 3. *Id.* ¶ 6. Because the underlying dataset may address Plaintiffs' concerns regarding the Interrogatory No. 3 data, at this time Plaintiffs do not move to compel Defendants to correct and re-produce that data but reserve the right to in the future. *Id.*

BACKGROUND

A. In Discovery, Plaintiffs Requested and Defendants Produced Statistical Data Regarding the Processing Times and Denial Rates of CARRP Cases.

On August 1, 2017, Plaintiffs served their First Requests for Production to Defendants, which included RFP Nos. 27, 28 and 33. Ahmed Decl. Ex. A. RFP. No 27 requests: "All Documents referring or relating to the number of Immigration Benefit Applications subject to CARRP" including "data[] or statistics related to CARRP." *Id.* at 16. RFP No. 28 requests: "All Documents referring to, relating to, or reflecting ... demographics of Immigration Benefit Applicants who have been ... subjected to CARRP, including application processing times." *Id.* RFP No. 33 requests: "All Documents that any Defendant contends support any affirmative defense set forth in response to the Second Amended Complaint." *Id.* at 18. On September 5, 2017, Defendants responded that they would produce responsive documents to these RFPs. Ahmed Decl. Ex. B at 46-48.

On August 24, 2018, Plaintiffs served their Fifth Requests for Production and Third Interrogatories to Defendants, which included Interrogatory No. 3. Ahmed Decl. Ex. C. Interrogatory No. 3 requests certain CARRP-related information, including "[t]he total number of applications referred into CARRP" and the median and average processing times and denial rates at various stages in the CARRP process. *Id.* at 10-11. In RFP Nos. 50 and 51, Plaintiffs also requested documents "sufficient to demonstrate the basis for and confirm the accuracy of [Defendants'] response to Interrogatory No. 3" and "used by [Defendants] as the source of any of the information set forth in [their] response to Interrogatory No. 3." *Id.* at 12. On October 16, 2018, Defendants produced to Plaintiffs an Excel spreadsheet with some of the statistical data requested by Plaintiffs in Interrogatory No. 3. Ahmed Decl. Ex. D.

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On July 26, 2019, Defendants served Plaintiffs their First Set of Supplemental Initial Disclosures. As part of those disclosures, Defendants included "USCIS data and/or data summaries/compilations ... regarding the receipt of immigration benefit applications for naturalization or adjustment of status and whether such applications were processed under CARRP or not, adjudication information for applications adjudicated following referral to CARRP and for cases adjudicated without referral to CARRP, and processing times for adjudication of applications handled under the CARRP process and applications not handled under the CARRP process." Ahmed Decl. Ex. E at 11-12. On that same date, Defendants produced "an Excel spreadsheet with multiple tabs summarizing/compiling this data." *Id.* at 12 (hereinafter the "USCIS Summary Data").

Defendants subsequently provided updated versions of the USCIS Summary Data on November 29, 2019 and February 14, 2020. Ahmed Decl. Ex. F (Defendants' Third Set of Supplemental Initial Disclosures); Ex. G (E-mail from Leon Taranto dated 2/14/2020). On November 22, 2019, Defendants acknowledged that the USCIS Summary Data was also responsive to RFP Nos. 27 and 28. Ahmed Decl. Ex. H at 17-21 (noting that the requested information in RFP Nos. 27 and 28 is "the same or similar to information contained in ... the CARRP-related statistics provided to Plaintiffs in Defendants' Supplemental Initial Disclosures"). The parties' statistical experts Mr. Sean Kruskol and Dr. Bernard Siskin relied on the February 14, 2020 version of the USCIS Summary Data when serving their initial expert reports on February 28, 2020.

B. Defendants Notified Plaintiffs of an Error in the Statistical Data, Produced A New Version of the Data, and Permitted Plaintiffs to Take a Rule 30(b)(6) Deposition.

On May 15, 2020, Defendants notified Plaintiffs that they had identified an error in the USCIS Summary Data. Ahmed Decl. Ex. I (E-mail from Leon Taranto dated 5/15/20). Because of that error, on June 12, 2020 Defendants produced another version of the USCIS Summary Data and an anonymized version of the underlying dataset used to create the USCIS Summary

1 Data (hereinafter the "USCIS Detailed Data"). Ahmed Decl. Ex. J (E-mail from Leon Taranto 2 dated 6/12/20). 3 Defendants also agreed that it was appropriate that Plaintiffs be permitted to explore 4 questions about the data through a Rule 30(b)(6) deposition. The parties agreed that the Rule 5 30(b)(6) deposition would cover the following topic: "How USCIS defines and measures 6 categories of information in the new tables and underlying dataset" including "what constitutes a 7 CARRP case, as reflected in the data?" Ahmed Decl. Ex. K at 14. At the Rule 30(b)(6) Deposition, USCIS Disclosed That Defendants Relied on an C. 8 Overbroad and Inaccurate Definition of a CARRP Case in the Statistical Data. 9 The Rule 30(b)(6) deposition on the statistical data occurred on August 31, 2020. At the 10 deposition, USCIS disclosed that it does not 11 . Ahmed Decl. Ex. L at 101-102, 108. Instead, USCIS disclosed for 12 the first time that the USCIS Summary Data relied on 13 at 98-100. This in consultation 14 with USCIS counsel. *Id.* at 101. According to the 15 16 that application would be identified as CARRP. *Id.* at 103:8-12. 17 According to the FDNS-DS User Guide, an 18 19 Ahmed Decl. Ex. M at 85 20 (emphasis added). USCIS acknowledged 21 22 Ahmed Decl. Ex. L at 126. The user guide also states that 23 Ahmed Decl. Ex. 24 M at 450; see also id. at 451 25 At the deposition, 26

1	USCIS confirmed that
2	Ahmed Decl. Ex. L at 129.
3	The FDNS-DS database contains
4	Ahmed Decl. Ex. M at 453. These
5	Id. at
6	454. USCIS confirmed that, according to
7	Ahmed
8	Decl. Ex. L at 150. Although Defendants have represented that an "application is handled
9	pursuant to CARRP" only "if an application presents an articulable link to a national security
10	concern," Dkt. 74 at 20, this means Defendants'
11	, Ahmed
12	Decl. Ex. M at 454. USCIS also confirmed that, according to
13	
14	Ahmed Decl. Ex. L at 150. This means Defendants'
15	
16	Ahmed Decl. Ex. M at 454. Defendants' witnesses have testified that
17	when an applicant's their case is not a CARRP case. See,
18	e.g., Ahmed Decl. Ex. N at 102 (Cook Dep.)
19	; <i>id.</i> at 181
20	
21	The FDNS-DS database also contains three
22	Id. An applicant is identified as
23	
24	Id. at 490-91. USCIS confirmed that, according to its
25	
26	Ahmed Decl. Ex. L at 155. Defendants' witnesses have testified that when an

applicant's their case is not a CARRP case. See, e.g., Ahmed Decl. Ex.					
O at 87 (Quinn Dep.) (explaining that					
); Ahmed Decl. Ex. P at 225 (30(b)(6) Dep.)					
).					
D. Defendants Have Refused to Supplement or Correct the Statistical Data in Accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26.					
Because the Rule 30(b)(6) deposition confirmed that Defendants had previously produced					
inaccurate and misleading statistical data, Plaintiffs requested that Defendants produce additional					
data to ensure the parties and the Court have a more accurate understanding of what cases should					
be labeled as "CARRP cases" according to the data. Specifically, Plaintiffs requested that					
Defendants produce an updated version of the USCIS Detailed Data to include fields for the					
. Ahmed Decl. Ex. L at 213-14. USCIS has confirmed that					
it could update this data as requested. Id. at 151, 156. On September 21, 2020, Plaintiffs' expert					
Mr. Kruskol issues his Second Supplemental Expert Report. Mr. Kruskol stated that if he					
, [he] would					
be able to calculate mean and median processing times and approval and denial rates for					
applications" broken down into those various categories. Ahmed Decl. Ex. Q at 9. To date,					
however, Defendants have refused to produce the requested data.					
CERTIFICATION UNDER LCR 37(A)(1)					
Pursuant to LCR 37(a)(1), Plaintiffs have in good faith conferred with Defendants in an					
effort to resolve this dispute without court action. Plaintiffs have discussed this dispute with					
Defendants on many occasions in September and October 2020. Ahmed Decl. Ex. R. On October					
5, 2020, the parties held a telephonic meet and confer regarding this dispute, and Defendants					
have continued to refuse to produce the requested data. Id. \P 4.					

ARGUMENT

A. Legal Standard

A party "must supplement or correct its disclosure or [discovery] response" if "in some material respect the disclosure or response is incomplete or incorrect," "if the additional or corrective information has not otherwise been made known to the other parties during the discovery process" or "as ordered by the court." Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(e)(1)(A)-(B). The obligation to "supplement disclosures and discovery responses applies whenever a party learns that its prior disclosures or responses are in some material respect incomplete or incorrect." *Johnson v. BAE Sys., Inc.*, 307 F.R.D. 220, 224 (D.D.C. 2013); *see also R & R Sails, Inc. v. Ins. Co. of Pennsylvania*, 673 F.3d 1240, 1247 (9th Cir. 2012) (holding that Rule 26(e) required party to "supplement its initial disclosures ... after it became evident that the initial disclosures were incomplete"); 6 Moore's Federal Practice - Civil § 26.131 (2020) ("The duty to supplement and correct disclosures and responses is a continuing duty.").

Pursuant to Rule 37(a)(3)(A), a "party may move to compel disclosure" "[i]f a party fails to make a disclosure required by Rule 26(a)." Pursuant to Rule 37(a)(3)(B), a "party seeking discovery may move for an order compelling ... production" if "a party fails to answer an interrogatory submitted under Rule 33" or "to produce documents ... as requested under Rule 34." "[A]n evasive or incomplete disclosure, answer, or response must be treated as a failure to disclose, answer, or respond." Fed. R. Civ. P. 37(a)(4). Moreover, "[i]f a party fails to provide information" as required by Rule 26(e), "the party is not allowed to use that information ... to supply evidence on a motion, at a hearing, or at a trial, unless the failure was substantially justified or is harmless." Fed. R. Civ. P. 37(c)(1); see R & R Sails, 673 F.3d at 1247 ("[I]n the ordinary case, violations of Rule 26 may warrant evidence preclusion.").

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B. The Court Should Compel Defendants to Produce the Fields for the USCIS Detailed Data.

Defendants should be compelled to produce the fields in the USCIS Detailed Data because, without those fields, the USCIS Summary Data relies on a definition of a CARRP case that "is incomplete or incorrect" and information from those fields "has not otherwise been made known to [Plaintiffs] during the discovery process." Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(e)(1)(A). Defendants produced the data as a disclosure under Rule 26(a), and, therefore, "must supplement or correct [that] disclosure" under Rule 26(e). See, e.g., El Paso Area Teachers Fed. Credit Union v. Cumis Ins. Soc'y, Inc., No. EP-16-cv-0020, 2017 WL 5171857, at *3 (W.D. Tex. Mar. 8, 2017) (requiring party to supplement disclosures when it failed to provide all relevant information "regarding its claims or defenses ... and no discovery request was required to obtain them"); Krout v. New Albertson's, Inc., No. 2:07-cv-01685, 2009 WL 10693220, at *2 (D. Nev. Mar. 20, 2009) (granting motion to compel where party had provided incomplete data as part of their Rule 26(a) disclosures).

Even if that were not the case, the data and the requested fields are also responsive to RFPs No. 27, 28, 33, 50, and 51, and Interrogatory No. 3 because they include: "statistics related to CARRP" (RFP No. 27); "application processing times" of individuals subjected to CARRP (RFP No. 28); information "Defendant[s] contend[] support any affirmative defense" (RFP No. 33); "median and average processing times and denial rates at various stages in the CARRP process" (Interrogatory No. 3); information to "confirm the accuracy of [Defendants'] response to Interrogatory No. 3" (RFP No. 50); and information used "as the source of any of the information set forth in [Defendants'] response to Interrogatory No. 3" (RFP No. 51). Ahmed Decl. Exs. A, C. Indeed, even Defendants admit that the data is responsive to at least RFP Nos. 27 and 28. *See* Ahmed Decl. Ex. H (stating that "the same or similar to information" responsive to RFP Nos. 27 and 28 was produced in the USCIS Summary Data). Therefore, Defendants also "must supplement or correct [their] response" to these

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discovery requests to include the requested data. Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(e); see Jones v. Travelers				
Cas. Ins. Co. of Am., 304 F.R.D. 677, 681 (N.D. Cal. 2015) ("Defendant had an obligation to				
timely supplement Defendant's response to Plaintiffs' requests for production with [the				
requested spreadsheets], or the data underlying those spreadsheets"); 6 Moore's Federal Practice				
- Civil § 26.131 ("[T]he duty to supplement appl[ies] to responsive documents that are created				
after a party has served a response to a discovery request.").				
Because , Defendants created				
their own overbroad and incorrect definition of CARRP cases				
Ahmed Decl. Ex. L at 101-102, 108. That definition improperly includes two categories of				
applicants that Defendants have previously represented are not subjected to CARRP. First, the				
USCIS Summary Data improperly includes cases as CARRP cases even where				
. Ahmed Decl. Ex. M at 454. This is in				
direct conflict with Defendants' position elsewhere in this case where they admit that				
"[a]ccording to the CARRP definition, a national security concern arises when an individual or				
organization has been determined to have an articulable link" to a national security concern, and				
an "application is handled pursuant to CARRP" only "if an application presents an articulable				
link to a national security concern." Dkt. 74 at 20.				
Second, the USCIS Summary Data improperly includes cases as CARRP cases even				
when the applicant				
. Ahmed Decl. Ex. M at 490-91.				
This is in direct conflict with Defendants' position elsewhere in this case that such applications				
are . See,				
e.g., Ahmed Decl. Ex. N at 181 (Cook Dep.) (admitting that such cases				
); Ahmed Decl. Ex. O at 87 (Quinn Dep.)				
(such applications are				
).				

By improperly including these two categories of applications as "CARRP cases,"				
Defendants have improperly skewed the USCIS Summary Data, including the processing times				
and approval rates of applications purportedly subjected to CARRP. And because USCIS either				
or				
, applicants who fall into these categories				
likely have higher approval rates and shorter processing times than applicants whose alleged				
. Therefore, it appears that Defendants				
purposefully included these applicants as CARRP cases in the USCIS Summary Data to mislead				
Plaintiffs and the Court that the processing times for actual CARRP cases are shorter, and				
approval rates are higher, than they actually are. Indeed, Defendants have already misleadingly				
relied on this incorrect data in an attempt to convince the Court that the harm caused by CARRP				
is not as serious as Plaintiffs contend. See Dkt. 383 at 5 (relying on incorrect USCIS Summary				
Data to contend that "over 80% of adjustment of status and naturalization applications				
adjudicated after referral to CARRP are approved rather than denied").				
The only way for the parties and the Court to have an accurate understanding of what				
cases should be included in the data as CARRP cases is if Defendants produce the				
fields requested by Plaintiffs. Because those fields separate the cases into				
categories including the parties'				
statistical experts can exclude those cases when calculating updated processing times and				
approval rates. See Ahmed Decl. Ex. Q at 9 (Plaintiffs' expert Mr. Kruskol stating that if he				
").				

1 The burden on Defendants to re-produce the USCIS Detailed Data with the 2 fields is minimal. At the Rule 30(b)(6) deposition, USCIS admitted that it 3 could update the data to include these fields and identified no burden in doing so. Ahmed Decl. 4 Ex. L at 151, 156. Defendants may also argue that Plaintiffs' request for this information is 5 untimely. That is incorrect. Before the Rule 30(b)(6) deposition on August 31, 2020, Plaintiffs 6 did not know how the data defined a CARRP case. As soon as Plaintiffs understood that the data 7 relied on an overbroad and incorrect definition 8 they requested the fields at the deposition itself and in subsequent 9 correspondence, but Defendants have refused to provide it. 10 The requested data goes to the heart of Plaintiffs' case. Without it, Plaintiffs (and the 11 Court) will not accurately understand the extent of the significant harm caused by CARRP: the 12 lengthier delays and higher rate of denials of applications subjected to CARRP. Moreover, the 13 extent of Defendants' error is significant. It is likely that of cases that 14 Defendants have identified as "CARRP cases" in the USCIS Summary Data have been 15 misidentified. For example, in other data produced to Plaintiffs, 16 purportedly subjected to CARRP were determined to be . Ahmed Decl. Ex. Q 17 at 7; see also Ex. N at 104). Therefore, 18 the Court should order Defendants to produce the requested data. See Richardson v. Union Oil 19 Co. of California, 167 F.R.D. 1, 5 (D.D.C. 1996) (granting Rule 37 motion where Plaintiff 20 "would have been seriously (if not fatally) weakened by the incomplete and inaccurate data 21 submitted by Defendant"). If Defendants contend that they somehow cannot produce the 22 requested data, then the Court should prevent Defendants from using any of the USCIS 23 Summary Data "to supply evidence on a motion, at a hearing, or at a trial." Rule 37(c)(1). 24 **CONCLUSION** 25 Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court grant their motion to compel. 26

1		DATED: October 15, 2020
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